The McMaster Students Union

PRESIDENT’S PAGE

BUILDING THE BOARD: BECOMING A VICE PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors of the McMaster Students Union (MSU) functions as a team, with three Vice Presidents working alongside the President to support and implement each other’s projects and agendas. Individuals interested in running for a VP position will present themselves to the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) at a special meeting in early April. Subsequently, the SRA will elect the VPs for the 2015/2016 term. Those interested in learning more about the process should contact any sitting VP or the MSU Speaker at speaker@msu.mcmaster.ca.

As Vice President (Administration) of the MSU, I have had a wealth of opportunities to interact with a wide variety of groups and individuals within the University, as well as throughout the wider Hamilton community. However, in addition to having the chance to build relationships with so many unique individuals throughout my term, I was also able to develop a personal vision, and implement projects that have a positive impact on the students who call this campus home.

Beyond the meaningful work and conversations in which I have been immersed, this role was also a fantastic opportunity for me to develop my professional skills. Over this past year, I can sincerely say I have not only refined my practical workplace skills, but also learned a lot about myself in the process. No two days are the same when working and interacting with hundreds of staff and volunteers in an organization with so many moving parts.

Be it through student orientation, improvement of MSU services, or the development of programs and initiatives, if you are passionate about McMaster student life and are looking for a platform to enact positive change, you should consider running for a Vice Presidential position.

In my role of Vice President (Education), I have been able to grow both personally and professionally. The main responsibilities of this position include advocating for the enhancement of students’ undergraduate experience at the university level, as well as the municipal, provincial, and federal levels of jurisdiction. A successful educational experience is dependent on numerous factors that often lie outside the classroom. It is for this reason that the VP (Education) deals with academic matters, as well as student financial assistance, mental health, and community engagement. While the position consists of a broad portfolio, there are essential skills the VP (Education) should possess. As the MSU prides itself on research-based advocacy, the ability to conduct research, perform analyses, and communicate information to a wide audience, are very important.

If you have an interest in improving the post-secondary education of your peers through research, policy, and advocacy, then I encourage you to run for this position. I have found it to be an incredible experience filled with challenging but rewarding moments. At the end of the day, I will cherish everything I’ve learned in this job.

My time as Vice President (Finance) has been one of the best and most rewarding experiences of my life. Like any opportunity, it has come with its fair share of rough patches. Nonetheless, it has allowed me to grow on both a personal and professional level.

People often think they need an extensive knowledge of long-term versus short-term debt financing and the stock market. ‘In reality,’ the VP (Finance) works in conjunction with accounting and financial professionals of the MSU. As the VP (Finance), the larger part of your portfolio will consist of advising Part-Time Managers as to how best to allocate their financial resources.

A broad skillset is required to fulfill the role of VP (Finance). To succeed in the position, one must think critically and logically, whilst operating under public scrutiny.

While the role is not without its challenges, it is an opportunity to grow as a person while implementing positive change on campus. If you think you may enjoy the position, I highly encourage you to reach out to learn more.

The President’s Page is a space sponsored and used by the McMaster Students Union (MSU) Board of Directors (BoD) to communicate with the student body. It functions to highlight the Board’s projects, goals, and agenda for the year, as well as the general happenings of the MSU.